



Corridor Program

Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects

APPENDIX 01

Design Decisions

I-405, SR520 to SR522 Stage 1 (Kirkland Stage 1)

Draft RFP
March 22, 2005



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

March 22, 2005

**Table of Contents
I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project Stage 1
Design Decision Reports**

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---|--------------------|
| Location for Noise Walls for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project | March 11, 2005 |
| Modified Grading – I-405, SR520 to SR522 | March 8, 2005 |
| Staging Options – I-405, SR520 to SR522 Stage 1 | March 1, 2005 |
| Compound Curves | February 23, 2005 |
| Stage 1 SB I-405 On ramp from NE 116 th St. | February 22, 2005 |
| Traffic Signals at NE 116 th Street SPUI Interchange | February 16, 2005 |
| Wetland Impact Avoidance and Minimization | October 18, 2004 |
| Environmental Impact Areas | September 24, 2004 |
| Forbes Creek Watershed Opportunities | July 9, 2004 |
| Superelevation Rates and Transitions | July 9, 2004 |
| Crown Relocation for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project..... | June 4, 2004 |
| Sight Distance at NE 116 th Street SPUI Interchange | June 2, 2004 |
| Removal and Replacement of Shoulders for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project | March 8, 2004 |



March 8, 2005

DESIGN DECISION

By Dustin Cooley/Matthew Klontz

Subject Modified Grading – I-405, SR 520 to SR 522

Background

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the current design decision to modify the inside and outside grading throughout the I-405, SR520 to SR 522 project. Adjusting these slopes minimized the impacts to wetlands, trees, existing sound walls/berms, and overall footprint.

Discussion

Modified cut ditch section was comprised of a 4'-10:1 slope from the edge of pavement (EOP) for guardrail, 8'- 4:1 ditch fore slope, 2' flat ditch bottom, and 2:1 slope to existing ground or if needed a wall offset from obstruction/ROW. Also a modified fill section was used in some areas and was comprised of a 4'-10:1 slope from the EOP for guardrail, and a 2:1 slope down to existing ground or if needed a wall offset from obstruction/ROW. The steeper slopes proposed by these modified sections will require guardrail; a 4 foot width has been provided from the EOP for this purpose.

| Description | SB Station Range | Adjustments |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bridal trails tree impacts. | 4031+50 to 4036+75 | Due to limited room between Nickel/Imp. to the ROW & exist./prop. Walls we will not be able to reduce impacts to the trees. |
| Bridal trails wall impacts. | 4031+50 to 4036+75 | Used modified ditch section along w/ guardrail to reduce the mainline cut slope. This allowed for the room needed to place a drilled shaft wall inside the existing ROW w/o impacting the existing sound wall. |
| 116 th slope modification. | 4261+75 to 4271+75 | Used modified ditch section along w/ guardrail to reduce the mainline cut slope and remove the impacts to existing 116 th street. |
| Spinney Homestead berm impacts. | 4166+75 to 4172+00 | Used modified ditch section along berm area to minimize impacts to the existing noise berm. |
| Spinney Homestead SB tree impacts. | 4166+75 to 4172+00 | Used modified ditch section along this area to minimize impacts to existing trees. |
| Spinney Homestead NB tree impacts. | 4175+50 to 4200+00 | Unable to modify side slope treatment to minimize tree impacts in this area. The slopes were already minimized and EOP was close to the ROW through out this area. |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Widen east design impacts. | 4277+80 to 4325+70 | For this design alternative a modified ditch section was used on both sides of SB405. To minimize impacts to existing noise berm to the west and help keep implementation impacts to a minimum this design alternative was sifted to the east. The modified slopes helped to minimize the impacts the wetlands located in the median. |
| Culvert 32 grading. | 4328+16 | There were no impacts related to culvert 32 due to proposed grading. Proposed grading contained a wall that stopped short of the pipe outlet. |
| Culvert 31, 30, & 29 grading. | 4315+79, 4308+60, 4301+35 | If widen east design alternative is used through this area there will be no impact these existing culverts. If the widen west design alternative is used the culverts will need to be modified due to the noise berm fill overtaking the ends of the culverts. |
| Culvert 28 grading. | 4294+00 | The grading in this area has been modified to use a barrier and 2:1 fill slope so that the proposed design will not impact this culvert. The 2:1 slope intersects the existing ground before impacting the culvert. |
| Culvert 27 grading | 4291+62 | The grading in this area has been modified to use a barrier and 2:1 fill slope so that the proposed design will not impact the culvert or the detention facility (Nickel). The 2:1 slope intersects the existing ground before impacting the culvert or detention facility. |
| Forbes culvert (Culvert 20) | 4176+90 to 4182+55 | The grading in this area has been modified to use a barrier and 2:1 fill slope so that the proposed design will not impact the existing culvert. |
| Culvert 18 grading | 4171+65 to 4172+45 | Placed headwall at culvert outlet. |
| Pond C1.1 | 4172+50 to 4176+90 | Relocated drainage pond to the south outside of 75' stream riparian zone. Used a 7' shoulder buffer (4' guardrail + 3' ecology ditch) and 2:1 side slopes to reduce impact. Pond location accommodates implementation channelization. |
| Pond E2 | 4362+00 to 4364+50 | Relocated drainage pond north outside of wetland. Located headwall to limit shoulder grading in wetland buffer. |
| Pond F1 | 4358+75 to 4364+50 | Relocated drainage pond to the east to accommodate implementation channelization. |
| Pond F2 | 4398+80 to 4400+15 | Relocated offsite pond outside of wetland. |
| Vault C1.2 | 4191+80 to 4199+80 | Verified vault can be located with increasing project footprint. Detailed vault grading not incorporated into DTM. |
| Vault A2 | 4051+75 to 4053+80 | Verified vault can be located with increasing project footprint. Vault grading incorporated into DTM. |
| SB I-405 to NE 160 th St Off-Ramp | 4363+95 to 4372+15 | Ramp Grading |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| Wall Relocation | 4372+15 to 4389+70 | Set walls to minimize grading impacts to the west. |
| Pedestrian Bridge | 41643+30 to 4165+68 | At NE 100 th St. pedestrian bridge, a 2 to 1 back-slope was used to footing cover |
| Forbes Creek | 4178+80 to 4182+45 | East and west access road details include; 4 to 1 fill slope with ecology ditch, 12' access road with a max. of 15% grade and a 20' wide pad. |
| | | |
| | | |

Conclusion

These modified sections have been added to the proposed DTM and can be seen in proposed contours and cross sections. Any change to geometry in these areas will require re-evaluation of the side slope treatment and its relation to the ROW or obstructions. At the time that guardrail is designed, guardrail lengths should be evaluated separately from the DTM and the DTM should be modified to reflect the length of need calculations.

Executive Summary of Construction Staging Options

The following table highlights the key issues involved in determining a construction staging plan for Stage 1 of the Kirkland Nickel Project. Four different staging plans were studied from traffic, structures, design and staging perspectives. A build to the east option was rejected because of ROW restrictions, while building to the west would require widening the BNSF structure. The following two options are considered feasible, though not preferred, by all disciplines.

| Issue | Crossover | 3 Stage |
|--|--|---|
| Description | Cross SB traffic onto existing NB bridge to build entire SB bridge | Separate SB HOV and GP lanes to build SB bridge in 3 stages; ½ mile split length with max gap of 30' |
| Design Speed | 50 mph minimum; higher design speeds may be possible | 60 mph |
| Safety | Lower ML design speed; tighter ramp merges | Limited area (30') for constructing bridge sections between active lanes will require additional safety measures for construction workers |
| Construction Cost | Reworking of items from the Totem Lake Project (throwaway construction) | |
| Staging Cost | Coordination with Totem Lake project could result in additional costs | Increased complexity of bridge construction |
| Duration | 15 months total time for bridge construction – 4-5 months with crossover from August 2006 to January 2007 | 15 months time for bridge construction – 4-5 with split mainline traffic from August 2006 to January 2007 |
| Coordination with Totem Lake Freeway Station Project | Extensive coordination of traffic control signing and phasing, construction items (final wearing course, barrier placement and final striping) | Limited coordination of traffic control signing and final striping. |
| Forbes Creek | Simpler construction staging by keeping SB traffic on NB side until south of Forbes; Use a local crossover for NB traffic to build NB bridge | Local crossovers necessary for both NB and SB. |
| Public Perception | Reconstructing items built by Totem Lake project | |
| Schedule | Cannot be constructed concurrent with ML Totem Lake project; subject to complications if Totem Lake keeps slipping | Minimal risk for delay from Totem Lake project slipping |
| Other Risks | Change orders from DB or Totem Lake project over coordination / schedule delays resulting from one project impacting the other | |

See the NE 116th St Staging Design Decision for a more complete description of the options and issues.



March 1, 2005

DESIGN DECISION

By Caroline Barnett, Tom Schnetzer

Subject Staging options for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Stage 1

Background

The Kirkland Nickel Stage 1 Project will replace the existing structures carrying I-405 over NE 116th Street. I-405 will be widened to 5 lanes in each direction, 1 HOV lane and 4 GP lanes, from the existing 4 lanes. The profile of I-405 will be raised to provide adequate vertical clearance over NE 116th Street when the bridges are widened to ultimate widths in the Implementation Plan. The twin bridges will likely be pre-stressed concrete girders, with a 150' span length and a 6'-9" structure depth. The NB I-405 bridge will be raised approximately 6' and the SB I-405 bridge will be raised approximately 4' over the existing bridge elevations.

Construction staging requirements are that 4 lanes of traffic be maintained at all times in both directions of I-405 except for temporary nighttime closures. The minimum desirable speed limit during construction is 60 mph, except when there is a major traffic movement, i.e. a crossover, where the speed limit may be reduced to 50 mph. 11 foot lane widths and 2 foot shoulders are the minimum section permitted, except across a structure when a 1 foot shoulder is acceptable. All other design parameters must be met. Ramp design speeds may be 10 mph lower than the mainline design speed in the area.

An additional consideration is the fish passageway to be built at Forbes Creek. Design options for this crossing include a 78 inch pipe or a new, 30-foot span bridge, with the current plan being to jack and bore the pipe under I-405. The construction staging of this crossing will need to work with the staging at the NE 116th Street structures.

Construction schedules and phasing must be coordinated with the Totem Lake/NE 128th Street HOV Direct Access/Freeway Station Project (also referred to as the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project) which is expected to be under construction at the same time. The Totem Lake Freeway Station Project will widen I-405 between NE 124th and NE 132nd Streets to build an HOV direct access connection at NE 128th Street.

Study

In studying construction phasing options, one crossover option and three non-crossover options were examined. The criteria considered are the resulting permanent alignments, compatibility with the proposed Implementation Plan, compatibility with Forbes Creek construction staging and construction cost and duration.

Option 1 - Crossover

Description

Step 1 would restrict lane and shoulder widths on the existing NB I-405 bridge to shift traffic to the west, demolish the eastern portion of the existing bridge and build the portion of the new NB bridge to the east. Step 2 would put NB traffic on the new NB structure, cross SB traffic over to the existing NB structure and demolish and rebuild the entire SB I-405 structure. Finally, SB traffic would be routed

onto the new SB structure while the existing NB structure is demolished and the new structure completed. Exhibit 1 shows a schematic diagram of the proposed bridge construction phasing.

Discussion

The crossover to the north of NE 116th Street will require coordination with the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project. Based on current schedules, the crossover will be constructed after the proposed mainline widening by the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project, which will lower the profile of NB I-405, relocate the SB on ramps from NE 124th Street and repave the entire surface of I-405. Based on the current schedules, the new Direct Access ramps would be open for traffic, while construction on the surrounding arterial streets is being completed.

In this area, both NB and SB I-405 are transitioning from a 5% superelevated section over the BNSF structures to normal crown under the NE 124th Street undercrossing structures. In addition, existing SB I-405 is approximately 3-4 feet higher than existing NB. Exhibit 1 assumes that temporary pavement will be added to NB I-405 without removing pavement from SB I-405, resulting in SB traffic being completely clear of the existing SB pavement before any changes in the profile are made. Pavement cannot be added or removed from the BNSF structure; therefore SB I-405 must match the existing profile and superelevation rate across this structure.

The SB on ramp from NE 124th Street would be routed to merge into the SB lanes during the horizontal transition onto the NB lanes using a parallel on connection. The full 300 foot parallel lane could be provided for merging, but the taper length would need to be shortened from the standard 300 feet to approximately 225 feet, a 20:1 rate. This would require removing the single slope barrier between the ramps and mainline. An additional option for this ramp would be to route it across the SB BNSF structure and then merge it into the SB mainline traffic. This could be continued during bridge construction, but would not be an option while the profile of SB I-405 is raised between the BNSF structure and NE 116th Street.

The new Direct Access ramp connects on the inside of SB I-405 before the crossover. Based on current schedules, this ramp will be open to traffic during the operations of the crossover. The gap acceptance length of the parallel on connection would be shortened by the crossover option to a length meeting a design speed of 49 mph. The taper length at the end of the ramp would be shorted as well to 270 feet from the desired 300 feet. The represents a taper rate of 25:1.

South of NE 116th Street, SB traffic could be crossed back onto the SB mainline without any complications. Most elements of the crossover could be constructed to meet the proposed design speeds, except the north end of the crossover where speeds as low as 50 mph may be necessary. The Implementation Plan would widen both structures at NE 116th Street to the west.

Using a crossover to construct the structures over NE 116th Street allows easier construction staging for the Forbes Creek structures. The crossover back to SB would be pushed south of Forbes Creek; construction of the SB structures at NE 116th Street and the fish passage at Forbes Creek would be concurrent. If a pipe is constructed, cut-and-cover could be used for the SB side, while the NB side could either be built using a local crossover or jack-and-bore. If a structure is needed, a local crossover for NB traffic would be necessary. This local crossover could be designed at 60 mph.

Cost and Duration

The majority of the costs associated with the crossover option will be temporary and will not require expansion of the scope of the Kirkland Nickel Project. The challenge of the crossover north of NE 116th St is the removal and replacement of items recently constructed by the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project. The construction cost of the items is less important than the political cost of reconstructing items that were just built. The following aspects of the Totem Lake Freeway Station Project would be redone by the Nickel Project crossover:

- 820 feet of new striping on SB I-405
- 1,100 feet of new pavement and striping on NB I-405
- 550 feet of new striping on the SB On ramps from NE 124th Street

- 200 feet of single slope barrier between the 124th SB On Ramps and SB I-405
- 550 feet of new median barrier between NB and SB I-405

Additionally, this staging plan will use existing inside shoulders as travel lanes. Approximately 2,300 feet of the existing inside shoulders may need to be upgraded to a temporary pavement section capable of supporting traffic for the duration of construction staging. Shoulders will be upgraded to match the mainline pavement section as part of the scope of the Nickel Project; however some shoulders that will be reconstructed in Step 3 may need to be upgraded for use in Step 2. Temporary pavement sections would be allowed for shoulders that will be rebuilt in later steps.

Total construction time for the bridges would be approximately 18 months. The crossover would be the second stage of bridge construction and would last approximately 4-5 months from August 2006 to January 2007.

Option 2 - Build SB East of Existing Location

Description

Step 1 would restrict lane and shoulder widths on the existing NB bridge to shift the traffic to the west, demolish the eastern portion of the existing bridge and build the portion of the new NB bridge to the east. Step 2 would shift NB traffic onto the new NB bridge and restrict lane and shoulder widths on the SB bridge to shift traffic to the west. The eastern portion of the existing SB bridge and the remainder of the existing NB would be demolished and the new SB structure would be built between the existing SB structure and the proposed NB structure. The NB bridge would be completed in Step 2. Step 3 would put SB traffic onto the new SB structure, demolish the existing SB structure and complete the construction of the SB bridge. Exhibit 2 shows a schematic diagram of the proposed bridge construction phasing.

Discussion

SB I-405 mainline would be shifted approximately 25 to 30 feet east of the existing location under this plan. The mainline shift would reduce the inside shoulder width across the BNSF structure to 4 feet and would require a taper rate of 45:1 on SB I-405. Both of these deviations would be permanent; the Implementation Plan widening of the BNSF structures would not eliminate or alleviate them. The Implementation Plan would widen the NE 116th St and the BNSF overcrossing structures to the west for SB and the NB structures to the east.

This proposed alignment would shift NB I-405 approximately 50 feet east of its current location. This shift would also push the NB off ramp further east of its current location and prohibit possible alignments that kept the limited access reference point more than 300 feet from the gas station driveway. The result of this configuration would be a limited access acquisition of one gas station driveway, which could result in condemnation of that business. Additional limited access control measures may also be necessary at some of the other driveways in this area, though these are not likely to result in condemnation. Closing driveways and restricting access is a not considered a desirable outcome by the City of Kirkland.

Building the structures at Forbes Creek would be done with local crossovers independent of construction of the NE 116th Street overcrossing structures, or a pipe would be constructed using jack-and-bore without affecting traffic on I-405.

Cost and Duration

The major cost of this option is the ROW acquisition. The cost of acquiring the Conoco Phillips 76 gas station through condemnation has been estimated at \$3 Million. While this cost would be incurred in Stage 2, it would still be necessary with this proposed alignment when the half-SPUI is completed. Additional access control measures could also be imposed in addition to this cost.

Total construction time for the structures at NE 116th Street would be approximately 18 months.

Option 3 - Build SB West of Existing Location

Description

Step 1 would restrict lane and shoulder widths on the existing NB and SB bridges to shift traffic to the inside (east on the SB bridge, west on the NB bridge). The outside portions (east for NB, west for SB) of the existing bridges would be demolished and portions of the new structures built. Step 2 would shift traffic onto the new structures, demolish the existing structures and complete construction of the new structures. Exhibit 3 shows a schematic diagram of the proposed bridge construction phasing.

Discussion

This option features a two stage construction schedule, that could be used to shorten construction duration and cost. By shifting both NB and SB alignments approximately 30 feet wider than the existing locations, it would be possible to build both new bridges while running traffic on the existing structures. The constraint of the BNSF structure, in terms of horizontal, vertical and cross slope controls, does not allow a SB alignment to work without widening the BNSF structure. Two different alternative alignments were developed in an attempt to minimize the impacts to the BNSF structure.

Alternative 1 would have a single curve beginning just north of the BNSF structure and continuing across NE 116th Street. The radius of a curve necessary to match the existing cross slope on the BNSF structure forces the alignment to swing out to the west. Accommodating the horizontal and superelevation constraints of the structures at the BNSF and NE 116th St requires widening the BNSF structure. The total widening necessary on the BNSF structure would be 16' at the SW corner, tapering to 6' at the NW corner.

Alternative 2 would have two small curves separated by a short (365 feet) tangent section beginning south of NE 116th and the tangent section just north of the BNSF structure. These radii allow the design to match the cross slope over the BNSF structure and still swing wide enough to allow two stage construction of the new NE 116th structure. This design impacts the BNSF structure by requiring an 8' widening to the SW corner of the structure tapering to the existing EOP at the NW corner of the structure. However, this design introduces a "broken back" curve to the alignment and could result in a superelevation deviation. The tangent is not long enough to transition to normal crown between the two curves, though a transition to an adverse crown would be possible. This option would require transitioning superelevation across the new NE 116th St structure.

Building the structures at Forbes Creek would be done with local crossovers independent of construction of the NE 116th Street overcrossing structures, or a pipe would be constructed using jack-and-bore without affecting traffic on I-405.

Cost and Duration

The Implementation Plan is to widen the SB BNSF structure by 19 feet. If it is necessary to widen this structure for construction of the Nickel Project, it would be desirable to construct the ultimate widened width. The cost of the widening this structure is estimated to be \$150 / SF. The full (Implementation) widening of the bridge is 5,000 SF, for a total estimated cost of \$1.24 Million, including soft costs, inflation and a 5% contingency. A tapered widening of the BNSF structure is possible, but not desirable from a structural standpoint. For Alternative 1, a 16' desired widening would result in building the full planned 19 foot widening, due to the impracticality of widening by 3 feet, or accepting deviations to lane or shoulder widths in the future. For Alternative 2, an eight foot widening of the entire structure would be recommended, which means 2,120 SF of structure for a total estimated cost of \$530,000. The NB BNSF structure would not need to be widened as part of the Nickel project.

Total construction time for the structures would be approximately 12 months, assuming concurrent construction of the new SB structure and the widening of the BNSF in Step 1.

Option 4 - Construct SB Bridge in 3 Stages

Description

For this option the NB bridge would be constructed in the same manner as for the Crossover Option. The following description focuses on the SB bridge only.

Step 1 would restrict lane and shoulder widths on the existing SB bridge to shift the traffic to the east. The western portion of the existing bridge, approximately 18 feet of structure width, would be demolished and a portion of the new SB bridge to the west, approximately 41 feet of structure width, would be built. Step 2 would split mainline traffic, with the three GP lanes on the new structure while the HOV lane would be shifted to the east on the existing bridge. The western portion of the remaining existing bridge, approximately 27 feet of structure width, would be demolished and another portion of the new SB bridge, approximately 27 feet of structure width, would be built in its place. Step 3 would shift the HOV lane from the existing SB bridge onto the new bridge structure. The final section of the existing SB bridge would be demolished and the remaining section of new bridge would be constructed.

Exhibit 4 shows a schematic diagram of the proposed bridge construction phasing.

Discussion

Both the geometric and structural components of this option are not desirable, though are feasible. Splitting mainline traffic in a construction zone and building a bridge with two closure pours would both be departures from standard construction practice. The complexity of construction staging for this option would be higher than for the other options. Additional traffic control, temporary bridge shoring and temporary barriers along travel lanes will be required.

Additional safety measures would be required with this option. Construction would be necessary between two lanes of live traffic. There would be less room for construction operations north of NE 116th Street. The split in mainline traffic does not conform to driver expectations.

During construction, 11 foot lanes and a 1 foot shoulder would be used for the three traffic lanes across the structure. The single lane would have only 19 feet of total roadway width, a 12 foot lane and 3 foot shoulders. These widths are based on structural preferences that live traffic not run on a cantilevered portion of the bridge. Outside of the bridge construction zone, roadway section widths would be widened to the construction zone minimums stated above.

The crossbeams and columns on the interior piers of the existing structure would need to remain in place until the final section of the existing bridge is demolished in Phase 3. Because the final existing bridge section is straddling the interior column, the adjacent columns and crossbeams would be necessary to support the superstructure. This would not interfere with the construction of the new structure, which is at least three feet higher than the existing mainline. There would be at least a two foot vertical gap between the existing top of crossbeam and the bottom of new superstructure.

Building the structures at Forbes Creek would be done with local crossovers independent of construction of the NE 116th Street overcrossing structures, or a pipe would be constructed using jack-and-bore without affecting traffic on I-405.

Cost and Duration

The cost of constructing and demolishing a bridge in 3 stages would be higher than the two stage options. The additional traffic control necessary to split mainline traffic would make the traffic control cost higher in this option than in the other staging options. An estimate of the additional construction costs associated with the temporary shoring and other staging items is not feasible given the current level of design. Both NB and SB bridges would be widened to the inside (east for SB and west for NB) in the Implementation Plan.

This option would require approximately 18 months for bridge construction. Phase 2 options would both require a split in mainline traffic. Total duration of the split mainline traffic would be 4-5 months, estimated to be from August 2006 to January 2007.

Conclusion

Due to the differing bridge locations between all options, a preferred option must be selected to be shown on the RFP plans. It is recognized that the Design-Builder can choose to construct the project in a potentially different manner from any of the options considered here.

Option 2, building to the east, is not a preferred option due to the necessity of a future ROW take when Stage 2 is built.

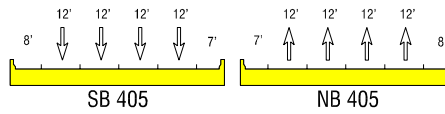
Option 3, building to the west, is not a preferred option due to the necessity of widening the SB BNSF structure. While this bridge will be widened in the Implementation Plan, it is not desirable to build this additional width today.

Option 1, the crossover, is a feasible staging plan. The benefit is the simplicity of constructing the SB NE 116th St structure in one stage. Additional benefits of the crossover are easy construction of a potential structure at Forbes Creek and more room for construction and staging operations. The downsides of this option are the lower design speed, the reconstruction of elements of the Totem Lake Freeway Station project and the dependence of this option on work being completed by the Totem Lake Freeway Station project.

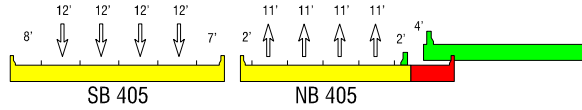
Option 4, the 3-stage bridge construction, is also a feasible plan. This option has several downsides, including increased difficulty of construction, increased cost, and splitting the HOV lane from GP traffic. The benefits of this option are the greater design speed, no overlap with the Totem Lake Freeway Station project and the independence of construction schedules from the Totem Lake Freeway Station project.

At this point, it is unclear when the Totem Lake Freeway Station project will be constructed. Because of its relative independence from the Totem Lake Freeway Station project, Option 4 is preferred at this time. Coordination between the two projects will still be necessary for traffic control and work zone signing.

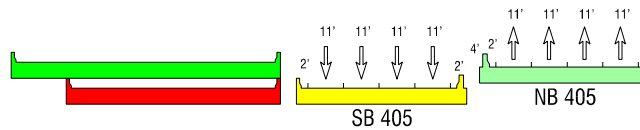
This design decision has been refined since the RFP plans were developed. The alignment shown on the RFP plans is based on a 3-stage construction which would necessitate building the full Implementation Plan width for the SB I-405 bridge.



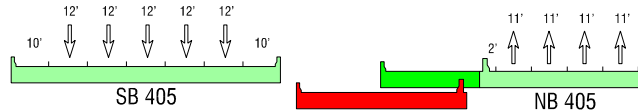
EXISTING



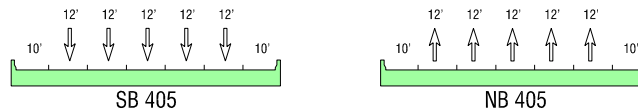
STEP 1



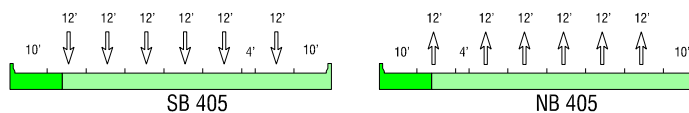
STEP 2



STEP 3



NICKEL COMPLETION



IMPLEMENTATION

WIDEN NICKEL BRIDGES 16'

- EXISTING
- BUILT IN PREVIOUS STAGE
- BUILT IN CURRENT STAGE
- EXISTING TO BE DEMOLISHED

\$(PWF\FILE)

genen

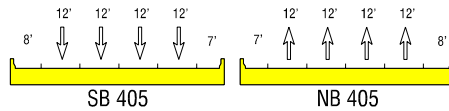
3/23/2005 9:40:46 AM



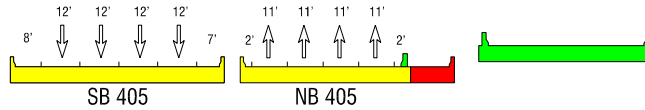
I-405 CONGESTION RELIEF & BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECTS

I-405 MAINLINE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC
OPTION 1 - CROSSOVER

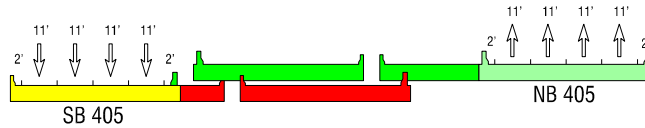
DATE
11/02/04



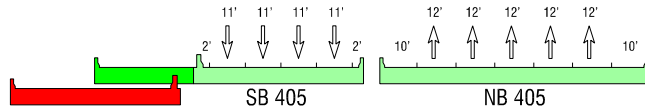
EXISTING



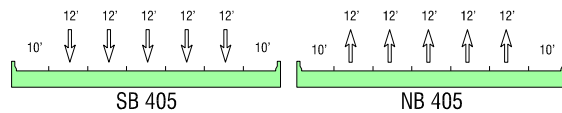
STEP 1



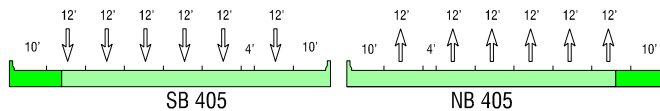
STEP 2



STEP 3



NICKEL COMPLETION



IMPLEMENTATION

WIDEN NICKEL BRIDGES 16'

- EXISTING
- BUILT IN PREVIOUS STAGE
- BUILT IN CURRENT STAGE
- EXISTING TO BE DEMOLISHED



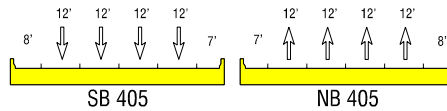
Project Team



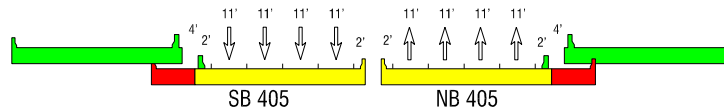
I-405 CONGESTION RELIEF & BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECTS

I-405 MAINLINE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC
OPTION 2 - BUILD SB EAST

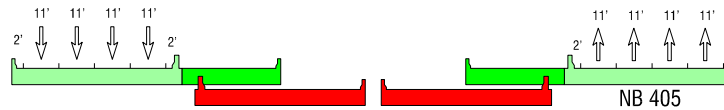
DATE
11/02/04



EXISTING



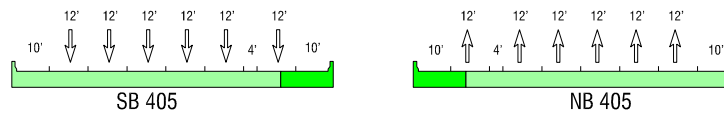
STEP 1



STEP 2



NICKEL COMPLETION



IMPLEMENTATION

WIDEN NICKEL BRIDGES 16'

- EXISTING
- BUILT IN PREVIOUS STAGE
- BUILT IN CURRENT STAGE
- EXISTING TO BE DEMOLISHED



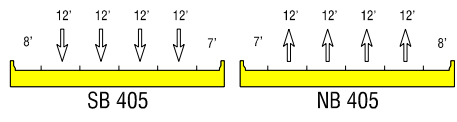
Project Team



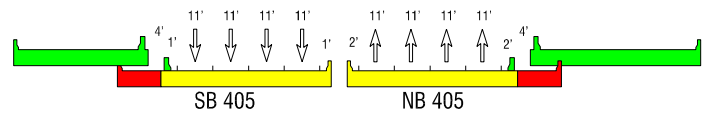
I-405 CONGESTION RELIEF & BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECTS

I-405 MAINLINE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC
OPTION 3 - BUILD SB WEST

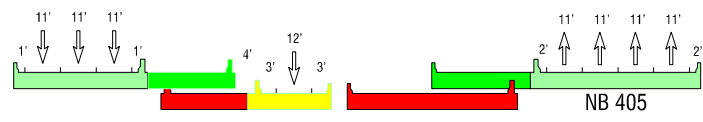
DATE
11/02/04



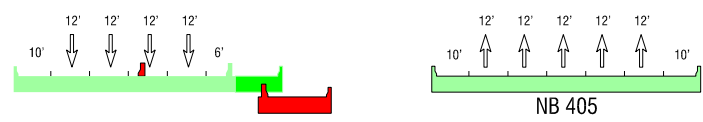
EXISTING



STEP 1



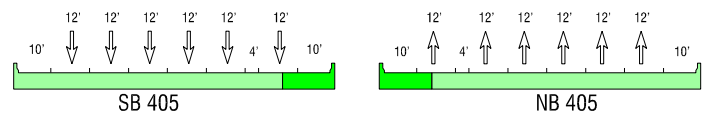
STEP 2



STEP 3



NICKEL COMPLETION



IMPLEMENTATION WIDEN NICKEL BRIDGES 16'

- EXISTING
- BUILT IN PREVIOUS STAGE
- BUILT IN CURRENT STAGE
- EXISTING TO BE DEMOLISHED



I-405 CONGESTION RELIEF & BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECTS

I-405 MAINLINE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC
OPTION 4 - 3 STAGE

DATE
11/02/04



February 23, 2005

DESIGN DECISION

By Caroline Barnett
Subject Compound Curves

Background

In the NE 116th St vicinity, the Kirkland Nickel project alignments, both horizontal and vertical, have been through much iteration. Initial designs showed compound curves on all alignments. Comments received from the 5% Technical Review in April 2004, suggested removing the compound curves from all alignments (see comments DC 12, DC 39, and JM 31). Since then, we have attempted to remove these curves.

The NE 116th St overcrossing structures will be replaced in the Kirkland Nickel Project. The existing half-diamond interchange will be upgraded to a half-SPUI. Approximately 600 feet north of NE 116th St, I-405 crosses the BNSF Railroad. These overcrossing structures will not be replaced or widened by the Nickel Project. Additionally, the load rating on these structures has been determined to be 1.05 and 1.0 (for NB and SB, respectively), which precludes any changes to the bridge deck. Therefore, the profile and superelevation rate for both NB and SB must tie in south of these bridges.

Study

NB Horizontal Alignment

For staging purposes, the NB alignment has been pushed east of the existing location. This proposed alignment allows the NB bridge to be built in two stages. The Implementation widening will be to the inside (west). Compound curves are necessary for this alignment to be shifted in the proposed manner. The proposed curves have radii of 4589 feet and 3646 feet; the 0.80 ratio between the radii is greater than the standard 0.67.

NB Vertical Alignment

A simple curve is possible that provides the necessary clearance over NE 116th St and ties into the BNSF structure. This curve meets all standards.

SB Horizontal Alignment

Following the 5% technical review in April and the shifting of the NB alignment, the SB alignment was changed to show a simple curve across both NE 116th St and the BNSF. This curve was taken into the constructibility review conducted in September 2004, where it was determined that a simple curve is not constructible. Following this review, the construction staging options have been analyzed (see the Staging Options for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Stage 1 Design Decision for a complete discussion). The "3-stage" option is the currently preferred method. The proposed alignment would have compound curves with radii of 4,450 feet and 3,900 feet; the smaller radius is 0.876 of the larger radius.

SB Vertical Alignment

The SB vertical alignment is controlled by the clearance requirements over NE 116th St, the span requirements of a SPUI design and the proximity to the BNSF structure. The minimum vertical clearance over NE 116th St must be 16.5 feet in the widened Implementation Plan condition. These constraints have made using a single curve impossible vertically. As the horizontal alignment was

shifted west for constructibility reasons, the vertical alignment had to be raised to account for the profile of NE 116th St. It was determined that a simple vertical curve cannot adequately tie into the BNSF structure and still provide the clearance necessary over NE 116th St. For this reason, compound vertical curves are proposed. Using compound curves is necessary if the profile of the SB BNSF bridge is not to be altered, because the existing bridge over the BNSF is built on a vertical curve.

Conclusion

All elements proposed for these alignments meet the applicable Design Manual standards for stopping sight distance, superelevation rates, and ratio of radii in compound curves.



February 22, 2005

DESIGN DECISION

By Caroline Barnett, Matt Klontz
Subject Stage 1 SB I-405 On Ramp from NE 116th St

Background

The Kirkland Nickel Project is being built in two stages. Stage 1 will add an additional lane NB and SB on I-405 and rebuild the mainline structures over NE 116th St. Stage 2 will upgrade the existing half-diamond interchange at NE 116th St to a half-SPUI design. I-405 will be raised approximately 4-6 feet over NE 116th St due to an increased structure depth and to meet vertical clearance requirements in the Implementation configuration.

The ramps to NE 116th St will need to be modified to accommodate the widened I-405 and the change in profile. The NB Off-ramp to NE 116th St will need to be rebuilt to accommodate the current staging plan. This ramp is included in the scope of Stage 1. The SB On Ramp was planned to be constructed in Stage 1 as well. However, funding does not appear to be sufficient for a complete rebuild of this ramp. In order to limit the amount of Stage 1 construction that will be rebuilt in Stage 2, non-standard ramp configurations were studied.

Study

The existing SB On Ramp from NE 116th St is a two lane metered ramp with an HOV bypass lane. From the ramp meter to the 12 foot width, there is 1170 feet of acceleration length, which allows approximately 0-60 mph acceleration. The ramp width is approximately 20 feet at the painted gore and tapers into the existing mainline at a 50:1 taper rate. The design does not include the standard distances for lane drops or for separation between mainline and ramp during the lane drop. When the ramp meter is not operational, a vertical curve ending at the physical gore provides a 40 mph design speed; there is sufficient room beyond the end of the curve for traffic to reach 55 mph before merging onto I-405.

The planned ramp at the completion of Nickel Construction will be a metered two lane ramp with an HOV bypass lane designed according to Figure 1050-4b (May 2003) of the WSDOT Design Manual. The storage length behind the ramp meter will be increased from 630 feet to 1250 feet. A fourth lane from NE 116th St will also be added to the ramp for approximately 200 feet to improve arterial operations. The Stage 2 ramp is designed to accommodate the Implementation widening while requiring only minor modifications to the ramp gore, which is why the taper extends so far to the south. The construction of this ramp will require a retaining wall to keep within the existing ROW and to limit impacts to wetlands in the area.

The proposed ramp for Stage 1 is designed to accommodate the changes in Stage 1 while minimizing the amount of rework required in Stage 2. The interim ramp is intended to improve the overall operations of the ramp without compromising the forward compatibility of the elements. The ramp would leave the 40 mph design speed vertical curve at the physical gore, though the ramp profile would be adjusted to match the raise in the I-405 profile. The horizontal alignment shift would tie in around the ramp meter, whose location would not be adjusted. The storage length behind the ramp meter would not be altered in the interim condition. The lane drops and taper rates would be modified. The proposed design channelizes the ramp lane merges to occur before the painted gore with I-405. The acceleration length from the ramp meter to the 12 foot width would be shortened

slightly to 1075 feet, which is still greater than the standard length required. The proposed ramp taper occurs at a rate of 50:1.

Conclusion

Any non-standard design elements recommended in this design decision will require a design deviation before construction. This design decision does not supercede an effort on the part of the Design-Builder to build a ramp to meet all applicable standards. The intent of this decision is to document the design process undertaken to limit the amount of rework necessary moving into Stage 2 and the Implementation Plan.

The proposed ramp retains the elements of the existing ramp that meet standards, especially the acceleration length and the ramp taper rate. The proposed interim design would also improve the non-standard elements, lengthen the merge distances and require the ramp lanes to merge before the connection to I-405. These improvements will improve the safety of the ramp, during both peak and off-peak hours.



February 16, 2004

DESIGN DECISION

By Garth Merrill

Subject Traffic Signals at NE 116th Street SPUI Interchange

Background

The NE 116th Street interchange with I-405 will be reconfigured into a ½ - Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI), with a traffic signal.

Due to the alignment of the I-405 bridges and the superelevation required, the minimum vertical clearance of 16'-6" at the low point of the bridges over NE 116th Street is being provided in the preliminary design. The purpose of this memo is to evaluate the preliminary traffic signal layout for the intersection of the I-405 ramps at NE 116th Street. In a typical Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) design in Washington, signal heads are attached under the bridge structure in a horizontal arrangement. Due to the minimum vertical clearance issues raised, further evaluation of the signal head location was considered to ensure MUTCD requirements can be satisfied.

Analysis

EASTBOUND NE 116TH STREET APPROACH

The west edge of the SB I-405 bridge structure has the lowest vertical clearance along NE 116th Street. One option considered for SPUI signal head placement is on the bridge fascia. This would require the stop bar to be placed a minimum of 40' west of the bridge. However, there is a limited distance of approximately 240' between 120th Ave NE and the bridge structure. Consideration must be given to maximize the limited available queue storage. It is recommended the stop line be located as close to the intersection as possible to maximize the queue length.

Due to superelevation of mainline I-405, the alignment of the bridges will be sloped with the west edge being the lowest point with the least vertical clearance and the east side of each bridge higher, providing more vertical clearance. Reviewing a cross-section of I-405 along the NE 116th Street centerline, it was determined there is adequate vertical clearance to locate the signal heads horizontally under the bridge structure. NE 116th Street has a sag vertical curve as it goes under the structure which will limit the visibility of these signal heads. This can be addressed by placing a near-side post-mounted signal head at the stop bar for the eastbound approach.

WESTBOUND NE 116TH STREET APPROACH

The east edge of the NB I-405 bridge has the highest clearance. As with the eastbound approach, consideration needs to be given to maximize the storage queue lengths, especially for the westbound NE 116th Street to southbound I-405 on-ramp. Two options may be considered, mounting the heads on the bridge fascia and placing the stop bar a minimum (approximately 50' depending on actual mounting height) distance in advance of the signal bridge or hanging the signal heads horizontally, approximately in the center of the bridge and providing minimum vertical clearance. In either case, a near-side supplemental head is recommended. A pedestal post should also be provided on the south side between the two bridges to provide a secondary indication for the left-turn movement (a supplemental through indication could also be provided for the eastbound direction).

NORTHBOUND I-405 OFF-RAMP APPROACH

For the left-turn movement, it is recommended two signal heads be post-mounted on the north side of NE 116th Street between the two bridges. Visibility of the signal heads if mounted under the structure would be difficult based on the approach angle and may lead to confusion for westbound traffic. A supplemental through signal head may also be mounted to one of the posts for westbound through traffic. Space may be limited to fit posts due to the bridge abutment on the north side, if this proves to be a limiting factor, the signals may need to be mounted to the abutment wall.

Two near-side signals should also be placed at the stop bar, especially with the potentially higher speed of vehicles approaching from the freeway.

Conclusion

Reviewing each approach and the current proposed geometry of the bridge structures it was determined there are adequate locations for installation of the traffic signal that will satisfy MUTCD requirements. Standard traffic signal design criteria including requirements within the MUTCD will govern the design-builder's design.



October 18, 2004

DESIGN DOCUMENTATION

By Gene Niemasz
Subject Wetland Impact Avoidance and Minimization

Introduction

As design development and permit coordination activities proceed for the I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project (also referred to as the Nickel Project), several classified wetlands have been encountered along the freeway corridor. Roadway and storm drainage improvements may create impacts to these sensitive areas where features come into contact. The purpose of this document is to identify which measures have been developed to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands and associated buffer areas.

Background

Stream courses, wetlands, jurisdictional ditches and other sensitive areas have been identified and delineated for the Nickel Project. When compared with proposed roadway and storm drainage improvements, avoidance and minimization activities became necessary in certain locations to reduce impacts on sensitive areas and to facilitate permit coordination.

King County's GIS wetlands data was used as the initial guideline for identification and designation of wetlands along the corridor. As the design evolved, wetlands areas were field delineated by qualified wetland biologists, and surveyed. The field delineation resulted in 39 additional wetlands areas that were not part of the King County GIS data. Most of these new wetland areas are the result of natural establishment within roadside ditches. This new wetland information was imported into the design CAD drawings, and the design was refined, where possible, to avoid wetland and buffer impacts.

Summary

For a complete listing of all wetlands within the project limits and accounting of wetlands impacts, refer to the Wetlands Discipline Report, Table 2.

The design was refined in the following areas to minimize wetlands impacts:

Wetland 18.96R – design refinements resulting in complete wetlands avoidance include; addition of a headwall at end of a culvert, and revised grading to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 19.07R – design refinements resulting in complete wetlands avoidance include; addition of a headwall at end of a culvert, and revised grading to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 19.5L – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; extended retaining wall limits, revised grading and revised drainage vault location.

Wetland 19.7R – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; construction of a retaining wall to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 19.8L – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; revised grading to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 21.6L – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; revised grading to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 21.7L – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; revised grading to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 22.5L – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; revised grading to reduce footprint area.

Wetland 23.2L – design refinements resulting in minimized impacts include; lengthened retaining wall and revised grading to reduce footprint area.



September 24, 2004

DESIGN DECISION

By Gene Niemasz
Subject Environmental Impact Areas

Background

A new approach for defining the design footprint for Design-Build projects was needed to facilitate environmental impact assessment, final mitigation requirements, and to acquire all necessary environmental permits from 15% design level conceptual plans. For Design-Bid-Build projects, the permits are attained later in the design phase, when the final alignments and grading has been established.

For Design-Build projects, the conceptual plans provided to the Design-Builder are scoping drawings. The Design-Builder will establish the final design, and is free to revise alignments and grading within the limits established in the contract (RFP).

The new approach must identify environmentally sensitive areas, allow flexibility for design refinement, establish a method for quantifying final wetlands impacts, result in conceptual drawings and an RFP contract that will be acceptable to the permitting agencies for attaining the final permits for the project in advance of publishing the RFP.

Study

Design-Bid-Build

For a Design-Bid-Build project, permits are obtained based on final design plans, with impacts defined by the cut/fill line. Impacted areas outside of the cut/fill line are considered temporary, and are either restored to pre-project conditions, or as directed by the general or special provisions to the contract.

Design-Build

For a Design-Build project, permits are obtained at the 15% design level, and the contract is written to promote design innovation, which may lead to alterations in the cut/fill line, and thus the impacted areas. The concept of additional "impact" lines has been introduced to ensure that adequate mitigation is undertaken for identified resource areas (wetlands, streams, etc.), and to allow the Design-Builder the flexibility to adjust the cut/fill limits, with certain restrictions, without having to obtain new permits.

Conclusion

The following definitions have been developed to clarify impact areas:

Design Footprint (Cut/Fill Line)

The Design Footprint is the design cut/fill line established by the proposed roadway prism and drainage features (ponds, vaults, etc). The Design Footprint will be shown on the conceptual plans.

Impact Area

The Impact Area Line is generally a parallel offset to the smoothed cut/fill line. In the case of the Kirkland Nickel project, a 10 foot offset was used. This was intended as "wiggle room" for design

refinements for the Design-Builder. This line is depicted on the conceptual plans, and is the boundary from which impacts to environmental resources and required mitigation was determined. The Design-Builder may adjust the cut/fill line outward to Impact Area line in all cases, and be covered under the current permits.

The Impact Area Line was also used to determine total acreage disturbed for the project. Disturbed in earthwork terms, is defined as cleared and grubbed. The total not to exceed limit of disturbed area for the Kirkland Stage 1 project is 30 acres.

The Design-Builder may revise the cut/fill limits outside the Impact Area Line, except in defined environmentally sensitive areas (resource areas). These areas are depicted on the Conceptual Plans, and must be fenced with high visibility construction fencing as defined in the RFP and on plan sheet T2. In any circumstance, the total disturbed area is limited to 30 acres.

Right-of-Way

The Right of Way lines are the existing or proposed WSDOT property limits. Environmentally, resources are being assessed and analyzed between the right of way limits, e.g., wetlands will be mapped and surveyed. No archaeological resources were identified in the right of way between SR 520 and SR 522, so avoidance is not an issue. The contractor may use the full right of way for work zones and staging areas for materials and equipment, except as restricted by environmentally sensitive areas. Disturbed areas that are not within an impact area will be treated as described in the RFP under Roadside Restoration.

Environmental Analysis & Permits

Resource (wetlands, etc.) impacts shall be defined within the Impact Area Line. Permit applications should be written to allow full use of the right-of-way, as specified in the above line and area definitions, unless there will be resource impacts.

Work Zone Clarification

Impact Area

The Impact Area is the area between the existing roadway and the Impact Area Line, or an area enclosed by an Impact Area Line. The Design-Builder is free to adjust the cut/fill line out to the Impact Area Line without consequence, unless restricted specifically in the RFP or conceptual plans.

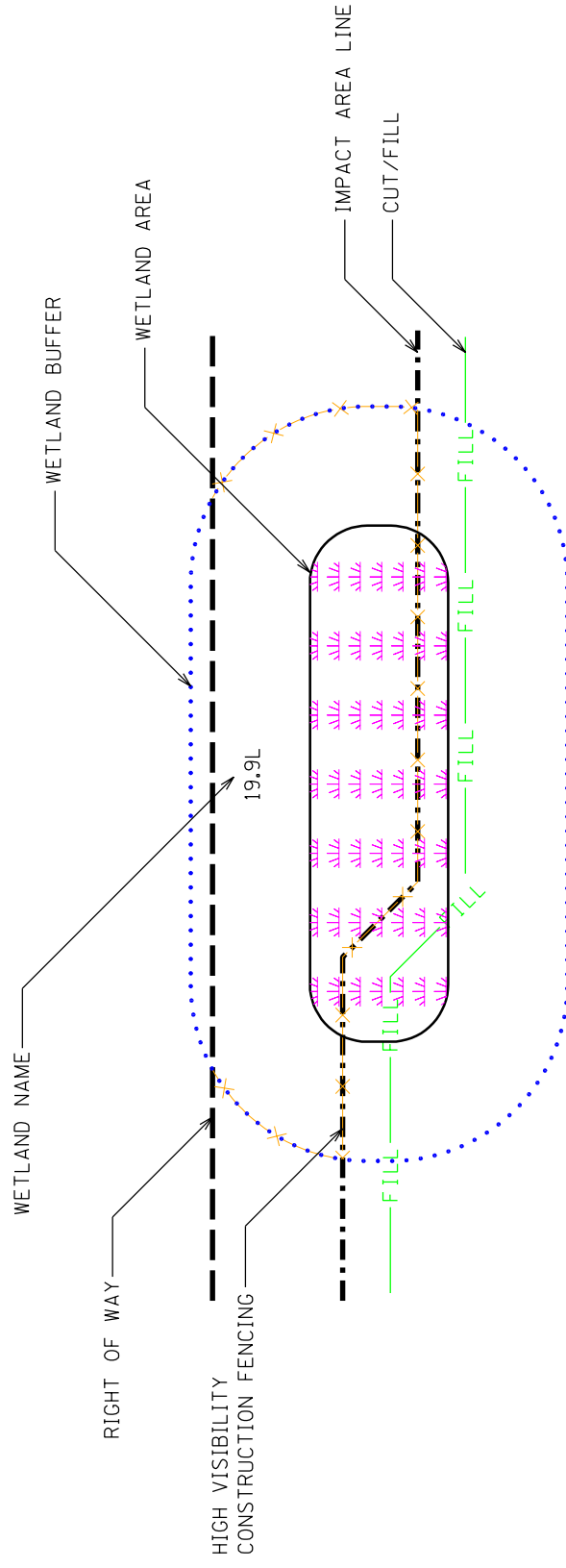
Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas must be fenced by the Design-Builder prior to any work in the vicinity with high visibility construction fencing. These areas are depicted on the Conceptual Plans. No work is permitted in these fenced areas.

Conceptual Plans, Permits, Final Plans & Construction

The cut/fill, Impact Area Line, construction fencing and Right of Way Lines will be shown on the Conceptual Plans, permit exhibits and final construction drawings. The CAD drawing files depicting all of the impact lines construction fencing areas and resource boundaries will be provided to the Design-Builder for their use in design and construction. The Design-Builder shall install high visibility construction fencing, as depicted on the Conceptual Plans, around all environmentally sensitive areas within the project limits, prior to the start of construction.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AREAS AND TERMINOLOGY





March 11, 2005

DESIGN DECISION

By Brent Pember, Caroline Barnett

Subject Locations of Noise Walls for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project

Background

Initial noise wall locations were obtained from the Noise Report (Version 1, Draft) dated June 2004. Some of the locations made construction of the walls difficult and expensive. The design team decided to reevaluate the locations for ease of construction, cost reduction, and compatibility with the Implementation Plan. We determined that noise walls could be placed at a minimum distance of 5 feet from the ROW. This will allow room for a footing that extends 3 feet from the centerline of the wall to the ROW. A construction easement may be required.

Study

Cross Sections were taken at each noise wall location. First, the walls were checked to see if they were compatible with the Implementation Plan or if reconstruction would be required. Then, using the top of wall elevation from the Noise Report, the height of each wall was determined. If the wall was taller than the 24 feet maximum shown on WSDOT Standard Plan D-2b, a new location was established. Walls taller than the standard height would require a special design and would be more costly. Finally, the design team met to determine our recommendations for each wall location.

Conclusion

Wall N1: place noise wall 5 feet from ROW on existing ground elevation. This location will be compatible with the Implementation Plan, though a retaining wall may be necessary. The wall will connect to the existing walls at both the north and south ends.

Wall N2: place noise wall 5 feet from ROW on existing ground elevation. This location will be compatible with the Implementation Plan. Additional wall length to the north was considered, but conflicts with the Implementation Plan and was not desired by the abutting property owner (Lee Johnson Motors). The wall has also been extended south to connect to the existing pedestrian bridge at NE 80th St.

Wall N3: shown as a continuation of existing noise wall. The Design-Builder may optimize the placement of this wall on the roadway side slope. This location will be compatible with the Implementation Plan, though a retaining wall may be necessary. The north end of this wall will tie into the existing NE 100th St pedestrian bridge abutment and will connect to the existing wall at the south end.

Wall N5: place wall 10' outside of Implementation shoulder. From the south end to gore of the new 132nd St off ramp (built in Implementation Plan), this wall will be placed between the

Implementation mainline and ramp instead of the outside of the ramp. Building a wall outside of the proposed ramp would require a wall approximately 40' tall. Near the gore area of the proposed ramp, the noise wall will cross the future ramp and be placed 10 feet outside of the ramp shoulder. The Implementation Plan will remove the portion of the wall across the proposed ramp. An additional noise study may be required at that time to determine mitigation from the new ramp.

Wall N7: place wall at the edge of the existing ramp from the south end for approximately 250 feet (approximate sta 4372+00). This piece of the wall will be throw-away in the Implementation Plan (about 1800SF). From STA 4372+00 to the North, place wall 3 feet from the ROW. This should make the required wall shorter and provide room for the Implementation Plan. The southern part of the wall was not built at the Implementation Plan location because it would have required a 2400 SF retaining wall that may or may not be compatible with the Implementation Plan.

Wall R1: place wall a variable distance from Implementation shoulder (10 foot min). To determine location, we started 5 feet inside the ROW and then went up at a 2:1 slope until we reached the Implementation shoulder elevation. This will cost about \$70,000 extra in earthwork, but it will make the wall compatible with Implementation, provide room for drainage improvements during the Implementation phase and reduce the height of wall needed compared to placing it 5 feet from the ROW. The wall will connect to the existing walls at both the north and south ends.

Wall R2A: place wall 5 feet inside the property line on the Woodlands Senior Home property. Several configurations of this noise wall and wall R2B have been considered. Several options placing the wall on CostCo property were considered. CostCo declined to allow the wall on their property without compensation. This wall was then moved to inside the Woodlands property. The wall is located 5 feet from the property line to protect the existing trees on CostCo property near the property line. The Woodlands parking lot will need to be restriped after construction of the noise wall.

Wall R2B: place wall 5 feet from ROW at Implementation shoulder elevation. Approximately 275 feet at the south end will not be compatible with the Implementation Plan. A retaining wall will be required in the Nickel to stay within the ROW; a retaining wall may also be built under the Implementation Plan to limit the amount of ROW needed. The permanent portion of the retaining wall built in the nickel will be designed to the Implementation Plan slopes. The wall will connect to the existing walls at the north end. Wall R2B should extend approximately three times the length of the gap between it and wall R2A.

Wall R3: place wall 5 feet from the Implementation shoulder. This location will require acquiring a parcel in the Nickel Project. This parcel will also be used for a drainage pond. Retaining walls will be necessary north and south of the acquired parcel to stay within the ROW. This wall will be completely compatible with the Implementation Plan, assuming the parcel is acquired.

Wall U4 (referred to as wall U6 in the Noise Report): remove and replace portions of the existing wall as shown in the Noise Report. This wall is about 5 feet from the ROW, but we do not want to move it closer to the ROW due to concerns about a utility line in this location. It will be compatible with the Implementation Plan, though a retaining wall may be necessary. The wall will connect to the existing walls at both the north and south ends.



Corridor Program

Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects

600 – 108th Avenue NE, Suite 405
Bellevue, WA 98004
Main 425-456-8500
Fax 425-456-8600

Forbes Creek Watershed Opportunities

July 9, 2004

**Attempts to Integrate Stormwater Improvements and
Watershed Opportunities**



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| FORBES CREEK WATERSHED OPPORTUNITIES | 2 |
| Introduction | 2 |
| Purpose | 2 |
| Background | 2 |
| Design Development | 3 |
| Benefits..... | 4 |
| Potential Drawbacks..... | 5 |
| Assumptions | 5 |
| Essential Components | 5 |
| Funding Needs..... | 5 |
| Recommendations | 5 |
| Conclusions | 6 |

Introduction

The I-405 team has investigated opportunities to integrate stormwater improvements with broader watershed improvements in Forbes Creek. Specifically, the team examined the feasibility of creating an off-site surface water pond while simultaneously daylighting a section of Forbes Creek and removing barriers to fish passage downstream of I-405. This paper documents efforts to develop a design meeting both stormwater requirements and watershed improvement goals.

Purpose

This paper documents efforts by the WSDOT I-405 team to develop proposals for watershed based improvements to Forbes Creek, within the City of Kirkland, and recommends no further action.

Background

Scheduled improvements to I-405 as part of the Kirkland Nickel Project would require the provision of substantial surface water controls within the Forbes Creek drainage area. Initial drainage investigations indicated that it would be necessary to construct a stormwater vault to provide necessary detention, as the very limited WSDOT ROW available made construction of an open pond infeasible. High costs associated with vault construction and the mediocre environmental performance of vaults encouraged the project team to investigate potential watershed solutions, while still meeting stormwater management needs, within the Forbes Creek watershed.

Preliminary Investigation: I-405 water resource staff performed a reconnaissance of field conditions within the watershed, and met in the field on separate occasions with local experts to discuss the existing stream conditions, previous fish passage and stream enhancement efforts, and potential watershed projects that could improve stream conditions while simultaneously meeting WSDOT surface water needs. Experts included Jenny Gaus (City of Kirkland surface water engineer), Bill Way (local stream and wetland restoration expert with extensive local knowledge of Forbes Creek and past projects), Kurt Buchanan (WDFW liaison for WSDOT Urban Corridor Projects), and Pat Klavas (WDFW member of the MAPT team).

Stream Conditions: The upper watershed (upstream of I-405) supports a population of cutthroat trout. The upper watershed has good water quality, extensive remaining wetland systems, well vegetated stream buffers and relatively low density for urban development. A number of small blockages exist within the upper watershed, making portions of the stream system unavailable to migratory fish. Recent sewer improvements and upcoming Comprehensive Planning efforts within Kirkland may result in increased density in the upper watershed over the next 10 years, potentially impacting upper watershed stream health and peak flows.

Forbes Creek crosses I-405 in a 36" CMP culvert approximately 450 feet long, with a drop of several feet at its outlet. The current culvert is not fish passable due to length, slope, water velocities and the drop barrier at the downstream end of the culvert.

Downstream of I-405 the stream passes through a short ravine which has been deeply incised by high stream flows. While initial field visits concluded that there might be potential spawning habitat within

the ravine, subsequent work concluded that the ravine was not suitable for spawning due to the deep incision and poor remaining substrate.

Below the ravine the stream passes under the Airshow Properties parking lot in a culvert approximately 350 feet long, which ends in a vertical drop onto a large pile of quarry spalls. This culvert effectively ends any upstream fish migration, and is a likely fatal obstacle for downstream migrants.

Several other fish passage barriers or partial barriers exist as one progresses downstream from the Airshow Property. A partial barrier (velocity) exists where the stream crosses the Burlington Northern railroad. An old dam near Forbes Creek Drive creates a complete blockage. A failing culvert at the Metro access road creates a complete blockage. A concrete weir and sediment pond at the Forbes Creek Apartments also creates a complete blockage. Several of these blockages have previously been repaired to allow fish passage and have since reverted to a blockage due to erosion related to high stream flows.

A large, low gradient wetland system exists in the lower basin stretching from the mouth at Lake Washington approximately 3,000 feet upstream.

Design Development

The Project design team developed an initial concept for creating an off-site surface water pond, daylighting a section of Forbes Creek, and removing barriers to fish passage. Subsequent investigations resulted in a series of design refinements and iterations attempting to achieve initial design goals of creating improved watershed conditions while still providing needed I-405 stormwater management improvements.

Initial Proposal:

- Relocate and daylight stream around parking lot, removing fish passage barrier.
- Provide access to ravine gravel for salmon spawning habitat.
- Create wetland and/or R/D pond in abandoned stream channel for freeway flows.

→Geologic investigations indicated that this option was not feasible due to unstable nature of adjacent hillside.

→Estimated cost for this approach including ROW, construction and design costs was approximately \$8M.

First Design Iteration: Design modified to reduce geologic risk

- Moved creek relocation away from hill to minimize geologic risk.
- Added stabilization wall in vicinity of southern hillside to minimize hillside issues.
- Added stabilization walls along daylighted stream channel due to depth below existing grade, need to protect remaining parking area.
- Pond outline modified to accommodate other design changes, capacity reduced.

→Depth of excavation to daylight creek caused concerns over biological viability, slope stability.

→Addition of walls added to cost.

→Estimated cost for this approach including ROW, construction and design costs was approximately \$8.1M .

Second Design Iteration: Design modified in response to detailed survey

- Additional parking impacts from greater excavation depth.
- Additional wall needed for north side of stream.
- Additional concerns over hillside stability.
- Higher costs from greater excavation depth and new walls.
- Pond outline modified to accommodate other design changes, capacity reduced.

- Costs associated with the extensive stabilization walls (parking lot, stream both sides, hillside) caused concerns over cost/benefit of effort.
- Depth below grade of “daylighted” stream channel caused concern of biological viability and bank stability of new stream reach.
- Cost for this iteration was not estimated, but would be expected to be larger than previous iterations.

Third Design Iteration: Design modified to reduce costs, construction impacts and risk

- Stream routed through 150’ culvert across west edge of parking lot, reduces excavation issues but raises fish passage design issues.
 - Reduced wall costs by relocating stream channel to more stable area, shortening portion of creek daylighted.
 - Increased impacts to parking lot may require additional ROW.
 - Pond outline modified to accommodate other design changes, capacity reduced.
- Design team working to address fish passage issues when new information (Metro sewer line) identified.
- Estimated cost for this approach including ROW, construction and design costs was approximately \$8.4M.

Fourth Design Iteration: Design modified to address conflicts with 72” sewer line

- Relocate approximately 700 feet of sewer line (potential construction feasibility issues).
 - Relocate and daylight stream similar to iteration #3.
 - Requires extensive use of walls, some up to 30’ tall.
 - Results in two long culverts (150’, 200’) at marginal slopes for fish passage (3.6%).
 - Pond outline modified to accommodate other design changes, capacity reduced.
- Routing stream over 72” sewer line infeasible due to elevation issues.
- Routing stream under 72” sewer line infeasible due to elevation issues.
- Cost for this iteration was not estimated, but would be expected to be substantially larger than previous iterations.

Fifth Design Iteration: Design modified for trap-and-haul fish passage

- Create new culvert outlet to eliminate large drop onto rock pile which kills downstream juvenile migrants.
 - Create fish trap facility to capture anadromous fish migrating upstream, prior to relocating them above the ravine and several fish barriers in the immediate vicinity.
 - Pond outline modified to accommodate other design changes, capacity reduced.
- Cost for this iteration was not estimated.
- Inability to create sufficient pond storage volume needed for project limited benefits.
- Fisheries concerns over effectiveness of trap-and-haul as passage strategy.

Benefits

Benefits initially anticipated from locating detention outside ROW were not fully realized:

- Benefits from creation of stormwater pond were smaller than anticipated. Site constraints limited stormwater pond size to 1.5 – 2.0 acre/feet of storage volume in all iterations, while 7+ acre/feet of storage is needed. Remaining storage needs would require construction of an additional stormwater facility which, due to the limited siting opportunities in the area, would need to be a constructed vault within the existing ROW. Construction of a vault significantly reduces anticipated benefits and cost savings from eliminating a separate drainage facility within ROW.

- Benefits from providing fish passage to ravine were smaller than anticipated. Habitat degradation in ravine due to high storm flows has virtually eliminated spawning potential in this reach.
- Benefits from daylighting stream were difficult to realize. Geologic risk, depth of excavation needed to daylight stream, conflicts with 72" sewer line limited benefits while raising costs and engineering challenge substantially.

Potential Drawbacks

A number of potential drawbacks were identified during project investigations:

- Inability to create pond sufficiently large to eliminate vaults within ROW limits cost-effectiveness of proposal.
- Geologic risk from raveling hill to south, and inherent risk of lawsuits for property damage from owners along top of hill, create substantial risk.
- Extent of walls needed to stabilize hill, stream channel, parking lot and sewer line make this a much larger disturbance and greater risk than initial proposal.
- Challenges associated with obtaining permission and physically relocating 72" gravity sewer line adds to costs and schedule uncertainty.

Assumptions

All iterations assumed that ROW could be obtained from the City of Kirkland and from affected property owners through willing-seller arrangements. Should condemnation be required, both schedule and cost would increase substantially, as would risk.

Essential Components

To be affective at addressing initial project design goals requires sufficient storage volume to significantly reduce stormwater facilities within the I-405 ROW. This goal was not met. Without significant surface water storage benefits, there is little justification for linking the out-of-ROW facility to roadway needs and purposes.

Funding Needs

The first three iterations are estimated to cost between \$8 M – \$8.5M. Subsequent iterations were not estimated due to larger structural costs and limited effectiveness.

Recommendations

The feasibility of creating an off-site surface water pond while simultaneously daylighting a section of Forbes Creek and removing barriers to fish passage downstream of I-405 was investigated as a potential watershed improvement effort.

Based on the discussion above, we recommend that the watershed improvement concept for Forbes Creek be abandoned. The principle factors leading to this recommendation include:

- Limited stormwater storage capacity due to steep slopes and other physical site constraints.
- High level of geologic hazard posed by steep slope to south, creating risk to residential structures.
- Presence of Metro 72" sewer line at critical elevation, limiting stream relocation options.
- Depth of excavation needed to daylight stream greater than anticipated.
- Extensive construction of costly retaining walls required to allow stream and parking relocation.

- Limited habitat quality in area that would be opened to fish access.
- Larger ROW needs than anticipated due to extent of excavation and wall construction.
- Inability to identify cost-effective alternative to constructed stormwater vault in existing ROW.

Conclusions

Although the watershed approach to addressing surface water requirements did not prove to be effective at this location due to the site limitations described above, substantial improvements to the existing condition of Forbes Creek will result from the construction of the Kirkland Nickel I-405 Improvements.

- After construction, all runoff from the new project pavement routed to Forbes Creek will receive enhanced water quality treatment through the use of ecology embankment integrated into the collection and conveyance system, whereas runoff currently receives no water quality treatment.
- Freeway runoff from the new project pavement will also be detained prior to being discharged to Forbes Creek, reducing downstream erosion and other flow related problems. No detention is currently provided.
- The I-405 team continues to work closely with representatives from WDFW to develop an effective fish passage design for improving the Forbes Creek culvert crossing under I-405. Funding for fish passage improvement is contained within the project budget.



July 9, 2004

DESIGN DECISION

By Brent Pember

Subject Superelevation Rates and Transitions

Background

Initially, the scope of the I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project (also referred to as the Nickel Project) intended the widening of the existing pavement (where an additional lane was to be added) by matching the existing cross slope. Superelevation rate, transitions and run-out length were intended to remain as they exist.

I-405 in this area was initially constructed as 3 lanes in each direction. The HOV lane project added one lane to the pavement section by widening to match the existing roadway cross slope.

Superelevation run-out design is a function of roadway width and is measured from the crown line to the outer edge of pavement — the wider the pavement, the longer the transition. Thus, the HOV project resulted in the construction of non-standard superelevation run-out lengths. In addition, the required superelevation rates have changed since the original construction of the roadway.

Pavement analysis concluded that an overlay is to be included in the Kirkland Nickel Project. This overlay presents an opportune time to correct the crown location, superelevation rates, and transition lengths.

Study

The superelevation rate required for each curve was computed using the WSDOT Design Manual, Section 640. Compound curves were treated as a single curve with the smaller radii being used to calculate the required superelevation rate.

Cross sections were then cut to determine existing superelevation rates. The existing superelevation rates were compared to the computed superelevation rates. Differences between existing and computed superelevation rates were discussed and resolved to determine the proposed superelevation rates for the Nickel Project.

The transition lengths were computed for the proposed superelevation rates. Instances (in reverse curve areas) where the computed normal crown stations overlapped were discussed with John Milton of WSDOT and conflicts were resolved. The new full depth replacement pavement at NE 116th St. will be widened in the future for the Implementation Plan.

Conclusion

If the existing and computed superelevation rates are different, we will use the one with the higher rate of superelevation. This will reduce the amount of grinding needed. If the superelevation is over an existing bridge, we will use the existing rate on the bridge to avoid having to replace the bridge deck. See summary tables below for superelevation rates (Table 1 and Table 2):

Table 1: NB I-405 Superelevation Rates

| Curve | STA | STA | Existing Super | Computed Super | Proposed Super | Comments |
|-------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 4086+50 | 4106+12 | 3.75% | 3% | 3.75% | Match Existing |
| 2 | 4110+45 | 4120+67 | 6% | 6% | 6% | Per WSDOT Manual |
| 3 | 4123+88 | 4137+82 | 3.75% | 3% | 3.75% | Existing Structure at NE 85 th St |
| 4 | 4155+11 | 4181+86 | 2% | NC | 2% | Match Existing |
| 5 | 4204+86 | 4227+28 | 5% | 4% | 5% | Existing Structure at BNSF, North of NE 116 th St |

Table 2: SB I-405 Superelevation Rates

| Curve | STA | STA | Existing Super | Computed Super | Proposed Super | Comments |
|-------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 4091+94 | 4101+87 | 5% | 6% | 6% | Per WSDOT Manual |
| 2 | 4110+84 | 4121+10 | 5% | 6% | 6% | Per WSDOT Manual |
| 3 | 4123+97 | 4138+03 | 3.75% | 3% | 3.75% | Existing Structure at NE 85 th St |
| 4 | 4155+33 | 4181+99 | 2% | NC | 2% | Match Existing |
| 5 | 4205+37 | 4228+76 | 5% | 4% | 5% | Existing Structure at BNSF, North of NE 116 th St |
| 6 | 4284+41 | 4304+55 | 5% | 5% | 5% | Per WSDOT Manual |
| 7 | 4317+29 | 4321+11 | 2.5% | 4% | 4% | Per WSDOT Manual |
| 8 | 4348+96 | 4360+38 | 2% | 2% | 2% | Per WSDOT Manual |
| 9 | 4386+20 | 4405+55 | 3% | 3% | 3% | Per WSDOT Manual |

The superelevation transition for NB I-405 between Curve 1 and Curve 2 will use a reverse curve transition from full super to level to full super without a normal crown section because the curves are too close to provide a transition to normal crown section.

The superelevation transition for NB I-405 between Curve 2 and Curve 3 will use a reverse curve transition from full super to level to full super without a normal crown section. In addition, the point of rotation will be moved to the center of the traveled way instead of the horizontal control line of NB I-405. This results in a smaller rotated travel way width, and in

turn, a shorter transition. These steps are necessary to allow the superelevations to transition at the standard rate. This applies only to the transition between Curve 2 and Curve 3. Since there is no normal crown section, the shift of pivot point will be practically unnoticeable by the driver. Curve 3 will transition out using a standard superelevation transition.

The NB I-405 transition out of Curve 5 will occur entirely on the tangent, because of the BNSF overcrossing structure. A design deviation will be obtained for this condition. The remaining NB I-405 superelevation transitions will use WSDOT standard superelevation transitions.

The superelevation transition for SB I-405 between Curve 2 and Curve 3 will use a reverse curve transition from full super to level to full super without a normal crown section. In addition, the percent of the superelevation runoff on the tangent will be shifted from 70% to 60% and the point of rotation will be moved to the center of the traveled way instead of the horizontal control line of SB I-405. This results in a smaller rotated travel way width, and in turn, a shorter transition. These steps are necessary to allow the superelevations to transition at the standard rate. This applies only to the transition between Curve 2 and Curve 3. Since there is no normal crown section, the shift of pivot point will be practically unnoticeable by the driver. Curve 3 will transition out using a standard superelevation transition.

The remaining SB I-405 superelevation transitions will use WSDOT standard superelevation transitions.

The transition lengths for both NB I-405 and SB I-405 Curve 5 were computed using the Implementation pavement widths instead of the Nickel Project widths. This pavement is a full depth replacement, will be permanent, and planning for the Implementation widening is justified.



June 4, 2004

DESIGN DECISION

By Gene Niemasz

Subject Crown Relocation for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project

Background

Some sections of the I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project (also referred to as the Nickel Project) will be brought up to full standard 10 foot inside and 10 foot outside shoulders (see Typical Section 1, page 3). On other sections of the project, the existing inside shoulder will be re-striped as traveled way (see Typical Section 2, page 3). As a result, the existing crown line would not be on a lane line in almost all cases when the project is complete.

Study

The feasibility of adjusting the crown to a lane line for the project has been analyzed. Any adjustment to the crown location would involve pavement grinding and overlay. Crown relocation or pavement overlay were not included in the initial project scope.

As part of the crown analysis, the project was compared to the Implementation Plan (IP) (Typical Section 3, page 3) to determine if the crown could be relocated to optimally satisfy both designs. In most cases the IP will reconstruct much of the added pavement in the NE 70th St / NE 85th St I/C area and the NE 160th St I/C area. The section north of NE 132nd St is superelevated, so no crown issue exists there.

Between NE 85th St and NE 116th St, the finished pavement surface in this project could be used for the IP project. The Nickel Project will construct a full standard section in this area, 7,000 feet NB and 7,600 feet SB. Generally, the crown relocation would require pavement grinding and variable thickness overlay within the mainline travel lanes – again beyond any scope efforts that have previously been studied.

A portion of the full standard section, approximately 2,000 feet NB and 1,600 feet SB, will require full reconstruction of the mainline (in the Nickel Project) to replace the NE 116th St mainline structures, so the crown will be reestablished in this area.

If the crown is not shifted for the rest of the section, transition sections will be required to shift the crown from the existing location to the proposed location in the vicinity of NE 116th St, as described above. On the south end, this shift would occur in a tangent (crown) section, on the north it would occur in a curve (superelevated) section. In a tangent section, this transition may be felt while driving, in the curve section, the transition is only virtual, because of the superelevated section (it is a crown line in name only).

The current corridor-wide configuration sets the IP crown between the #4 and #5 GP lanes—setting the crown at 38 feet (10' Shld. + 12' HOV + 4' Buffer + 12' GP) from the inside edge of shoulder. The Nickel Project would set the crown at 34 feet (no 4 foot Buffer) from the inside edge of shoulder. Thus, the 4 foot buffer complicates the strategy of building the Nickel Project to best suit the IP.

A possible solution to the buffer/crown location issue is to locate the crown between the HOV lane and the #5 GP lane—22 feet from the inside shoulder (10' Shld. + 12' HOV). In moving from the Nickel to the IP, the crown would remain on the HOV/GP lane line, and the buffer would be striped to the outside of the crown line. This shift would result in negative roadway drainage characteristics, however. In a crown section, drainage would sheet flow an additional lane width (48 feet in the Nickel and 60 feet in the IP) to get off of the traveled way.

Another consideration is the NE 128th Street Direct Access project. The PS&E plans show reconstruction of significant portions of the mainline for approximately 3,600 feet (between NE 124th St and NE 132nd St). This will reset the crown line at 10.2 meters (34 feet) from the edge of inside shoulder.

Additional considerations are pavement selection and life cycle for the existing pavement. The paved surface between SR520 and SR522, with the exception of bridge decks, is asphalt concrete pavement (ACP). Data provided by the WSDOT materials group indicate that the pavement life cycle averages 12 years in this area before resurfacing is required. Pavement resurfacing typically consists of overlay of all travel lanes, and grinding where necessary. The optimal timing for relocation of the crown would be at the end of the pavement life cycle. The pavement was resurfaced in 1997-98 in the Kirkland segment. A detailed pavement analysis is attached as Table 1.

The current construction schedule plans for construction beginning in July 2006 for Stage 1 (NE 85th St – NE 124th St), and July 2009 for Stage 2 (remainder of the Nickel Project). The age of the pavement surface would be 8 years and 11 years respectively for Stages 1 & 2, under that schedule.

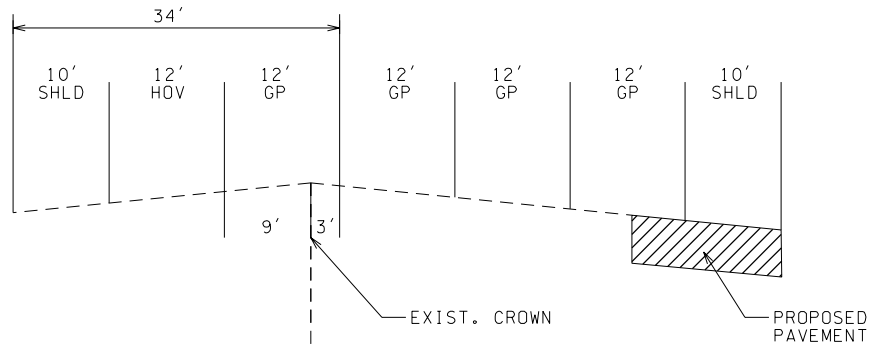
The footprint for the crown shift work between NE 85th St and NE 116th St would cover 3 travel lanes (HOV and GP#2 and #3) and add approximately \$2 million to the cost of the project [(55,556 SY) x (\$20/SY pvmt. + \$5/SY cold planning) + (\$500,000 MOT and striping) + (\$100,000 adjust inlets to grade)]. The maintenance of traffic efforts for the crown shift are nearly identical to what would be needed for an overlay operation. The costs for shifting the crown have never been carried in the scope for the Nickel Project.

Nickel project deviations were also considered in the crown analysis. A deviation roll plot was developed to illustrate type and location of all known design deviations. The deviation plot was aligned with a channelization and existing crown plot to study cumulative effects from a safety perspective.

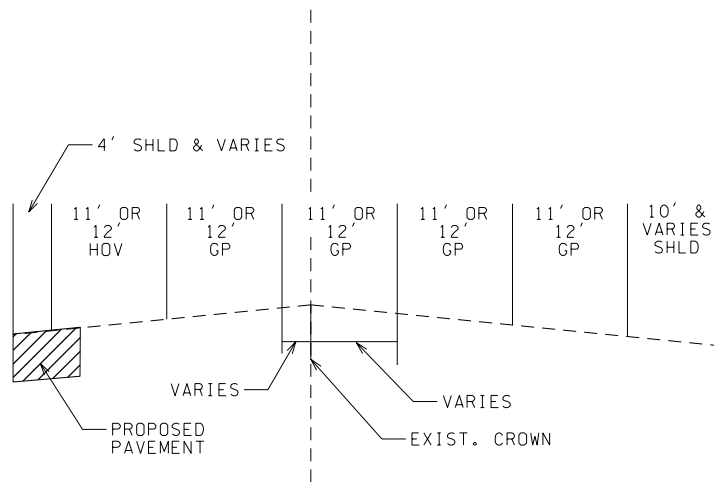
At the writing of this paper, the IP has been scaled back to “Option D”, which would only construct elements north of NE 124th Street. Further, a public vote to secure funding for the IP has been delayed, so the scope and schedule for the IP is undetermined.

Several meetings were held with WSDOT I-405 project managers to convey information and assist with the crown relocation decision.

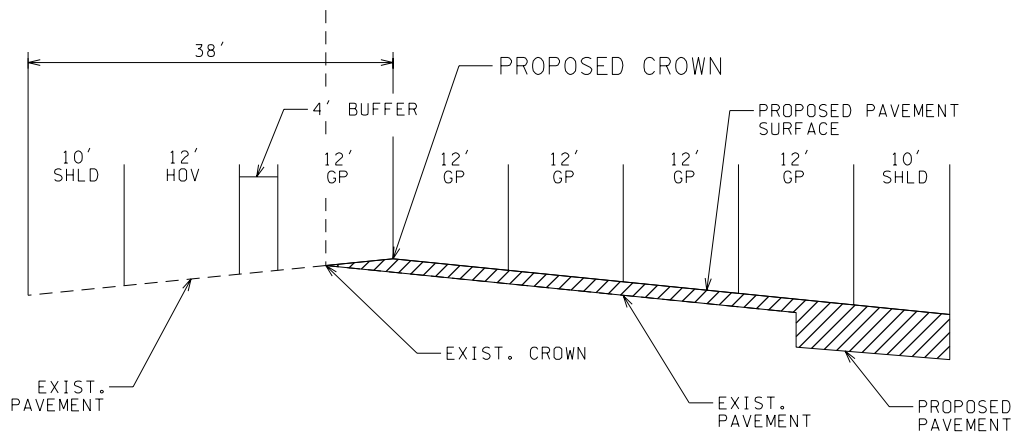
KIRKLAND TYPICAL SECTIONS FOR CROWN ANALYSIS



KIRKLAND NICKEL
TYPICAL SECTION 1 - FULL STANDARD

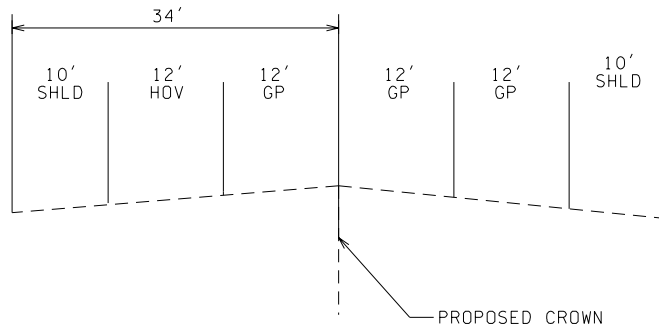


KIRKLAND NICKEL
TYPICAL SECTION 2 - DEVIATED SECTION

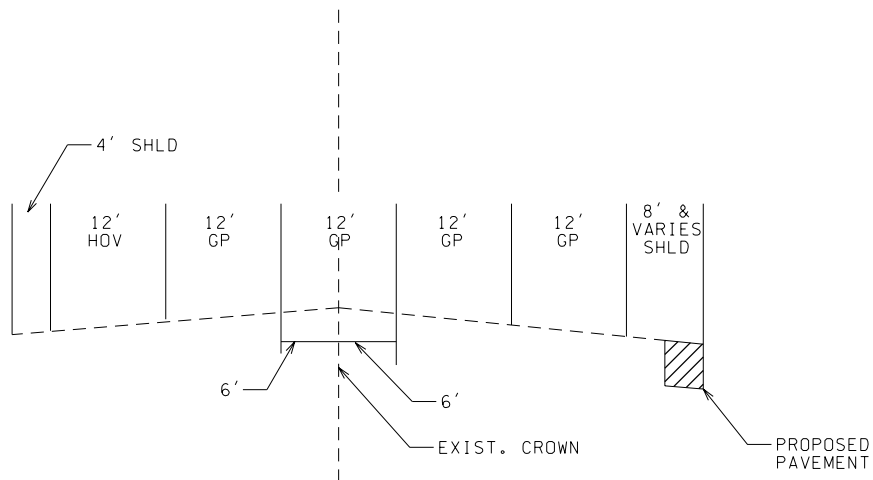


IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
TYPICAL SECTION 3 - FULL STANDARD

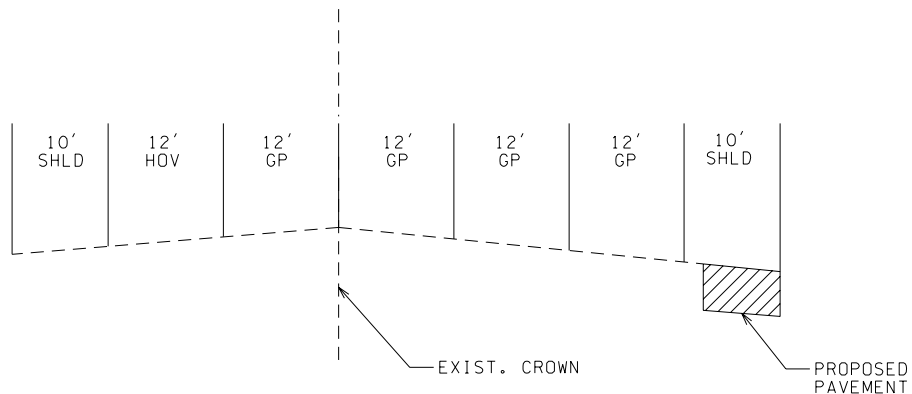
KIRKLAND TYPICAL SECTIONS FOR CROWN ANALYSIS



KIRKLAND 128TH PROJECT TYPICAL SECTION 4 - PROPOSED 128TH



KIRKLAND NICKEL TYPICAL SECTION 5 - DEVIATED SECTION, 128TH PROJECT LOCATION



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TYPICAL SECTION 6 - FULL STANDARD, NO 4' BUFFER

Conclusion

Considering safety, cumulative deviations, pavement life cycle and the nebulous nature of the Implementation Plan scope and schedule, it was decided to incorporate a crown shift and overlay into the Nickel Project scope.

The crown location will be set between the #3 GP and #4 GP lanes (34 feet from the left EP in the full standard section) and will remain on this lane line through the deviated sections. Overlay shall be 2 inch minimum, with grinding as needed to accommodate the crown shift.

The conceptual plans will be revised to reflect the crown relocation and overlay. Revised elements will include: shifting of the baseline, adding profile and superelevation plans to the entire project limits and revising typical sections.

The NE 128th St Direct Access Project crown location is consistent with this strategy in the full section area. Some rework may be required to set the crown at the Nickel Project location in the deviated section. To minimize rework, the strategy is to have one WSDOT Construction Project Engineer oversee both projects, as they should be under construction concurrently.



June 2, 2004

DESIGN DECISION

By Brent Pember/Gene Niemasz

Subject Sight Distance at NE 116th Street SPUI Interchange

Background

The NE 116th Street interchange will be reconfigured into a ½ - Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI), with a traffic signal. The new bridge will have vertical wrap-around abutment walls from the bridge soffit down to NE 116th Street. This study will assess left-turn stopping sight distance for the NB off-ramp and SB on-ramp in context with the abutment walls, which are a visual obstruction for left turning vehicles traveling through the interchange.

The WSDOT Design Manual (DM) has no specific SPUI design standards. For study purposes, DM Section 910.10 *Sight Distance at Intersections* and Figures 650-9 *Horizontal Stopping Sight Distance* and 910-18b *Sight Distance at Intersections* were used. Figure 910-6 *Sight Distance for Turning Vehicles* applies only to stop controlled intersections, but was used for comparison values.

Study

For the purpose of this study, two methods for sight distance analysis were performed using the WSDOT DM; Sight Triangle and horizontal Stopping Sight Distance (SSD). The sight triangle was used for the stopped condition at the stop bar, and the horizontal SSD for the “green” signal condition as a vehicle negotiates the left-turn movement.

Sight Triangle

A stop condition was analyzed, assuming that a vehicle was stopped at a red light. DM Figure 910-18b *Sight Distance at Intersections* was used to determine the requirements for the sight triangle. By measurement, the SB on-ramp has a clear sight distance of 290 feet. The formula provided on Figure 910-18b yields an infinite number when the offset to a fixed object is equal to 18 feet, and a negative number when the offset (23 feet in this case) is greater than 18 feet. The NB off-ramp line of sight is limited only by the NE 116th St profile and thus unobstructed by fixed objects for a vehicle sitting at the stop bar.

Horizontal Stopping Sight Distance

DM Figure 650-9 *Horizontal Stopping Sight Distance* was used to calculate the SSD, which was then compared to DM Table 650-2 to attain a design speed. The SB on-ramp and NB off-ramp have calculated SSD design speeds of 31 mph (206 feet) and 33 mph (238 feet) respectively. The radius for the curve meets a 25 mph design speed (SSD = 155 feet), so the calculated SSD exceeds the minimum required.

The Transportation Research Board report *National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 345* titled, “Single Point Urban Interchange Design and Operations Analysis” provides guidelines for SPUI design. The AASHTO *Policy on the Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* (Green Book) does not expressly address some SPUI operational elements and thus, Report 345 guidelines were intended to supplement the AASHTO Green Book for SPUI design. Table 5, on page 56 of Report 345, provides minimum lateral clearance to sight obstructions for left-turning vehicles. For a design speed of 25mph (167 foot minimum curve radius), the minimum lateral required clearance is 16.5 feet from the centerline of the inside turning lane – requiring a sight distance of 150 feet. The SB on-ramp has a minimum lateral clearance of 23 feet, with a sight distance of 290 feet.

The left-turn movements of the SPUI at NE 116th Street exceed the WSDOT sight triangle, and horizontal SSD requirements for a 25mph design speed. The offset distance to obstruction also exceeds the requirements set forth in the Transportation Board report 345 for a 25 mph design SPUI curve.

Since this project will be delivered via Design/Build, the reference documents, RFP materials and Design Criteria will establish minimum design requirements for left-turn movements in SPUI design. One approach is to define a minimum design speed for geometric elements, then follow the WSDOT Design Manual for curves and signalized intersection design. An alternative is to get specific with requirements for design speed, radii, offset to obstruction, sight triangle requirements, and horizontal SSD.

Conclusion

To optimize potential design innovation, the approach to SPUI design criteria will be to specify the left-turn design speed as 25 mph, and direct to the WSDOT Design Manual for standards. Conveyance of this information will be in the Project Specific Book of the RFP with the other design criteria.



March 8, 2004

DESIGN DECISION

By Gene Niemasz

Subject Removal and Replacement of Shoulders for I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project

Background

The I-405, SR520 to SR522 Project (also referred to as the Nickel Project) will require some new pavement and re-striping to add an additional travel lane northbound and southbound. When completed, much of the existing inside and outside shoulder areas will become portions of travel lanes.

Preliminary estimates for the Nickel Project assumed that the existing inside and outside shoulders of I-405 were constructed with the mainline travel lane's structural section, and thus able to handle traffic loads without performing remedial work.

The Coal Creek to Bothell HOV Project Contract Plans indicate that shoulder improvements were made as part of that work, but the proposed shoulders on the typical sections show 2" of asphalt concrete (AC) over aggregate base (AB)—well below traffic bearing capability. The structural section for traffic bearing lanes is shown as 0.95' AC over 0.20' AB. Additionally, the existing shoulder cross-slope grades are shown at 5%, compared with a 2% cross-slope for the travel lanes (tangent section). The current WSDOT design standard is to construct full-section inside and outside shoulders.

Study

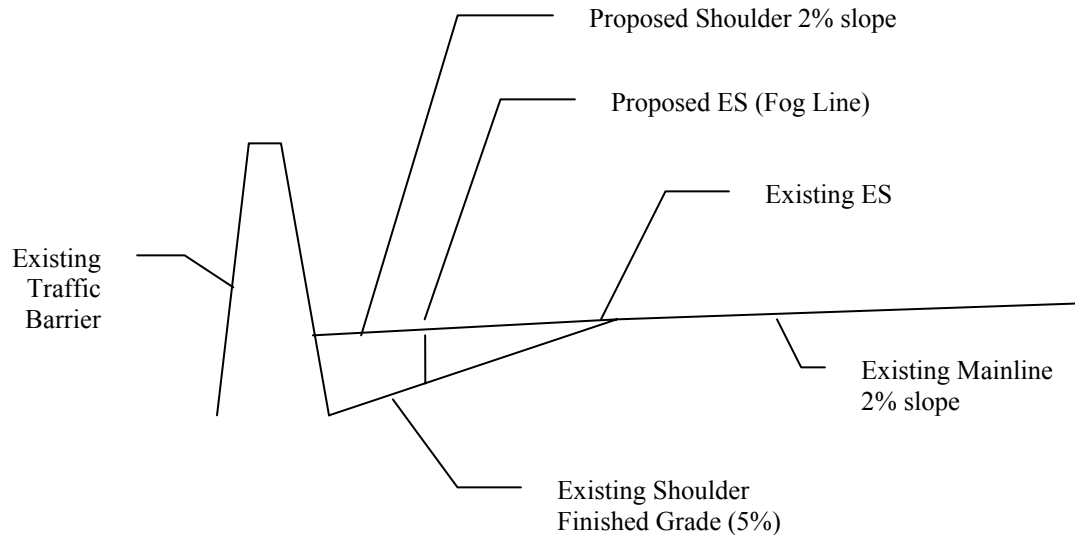
Shoulder Structural Section

Asphalt concrete coring samples were taken of the existing inside and outside shoulders at several NB and SB locations. The WSDOT Materials Testing Division data report dated, February 11, 2004, indicates that the AC in the shoulder section varies from 0.27' to 1.02'. The core sample data sheet and analysis is attached. The mean thickness is 0.51', with a standard deviation of 0.184. There is a 95% confidence interval that the mean thickness is between 0.436 and 0.584.

More than 95% of the samples are below 0.95' AC thickness. More than 88% of the samples are less than 0.60' thick.

Shoulder Cross-slope

Considering the shoulder cross-slope, if the portion of the existing shoulder that will become part of the traveled way is reconstructed at a 2% cross-slope, the entire shoulder should be reconstructed to avoid a vertical lip at the fog line.



There are many drainage inlets and signing/lighting pull boxes and a few other utility boxes in the existing **inside** shoulder that will require adjustment to grade if the shoulder cross-slope is adjusted to match that of the mainline traveled way. Generally, the drainage inlets are located up against the existing median traffic barrier, and would remain in the proposed shoulder. However, some of the pull boxes and other utility boxes may require relocation closer to the traffic barrier to keep them out of the HOV travel lane, when the shoulder is narrowed.

Conclusion

Only one of the core samples meets the structural section parameters for a travel lane – more than 88% of the samples are considered structurally inadequate. For the entire length of the project, the shoulder must be removed and replaced to accommodate traffic loads.

To meet the current WSDOT Design Manual standards, the entire inside and outside shoulders should be replaced with full structural section pavement. On tangent and low side of super-elevated sections, the shoulder cross-slope will be set to match the existing travel lane cross-slope. Drainage inlets, pull boxes and utility vaults must be set outside of travel lanes and at least one foot beyond the fog line, wherever possible. Cross-slopes for shoulders on the high side of super-elevated sections should be set according to the WSDOT Design Manual.